

HEOR NEWS



A diverse collection of news briefs from the global HEOR community.

1 Forging a New Path to Commercialization for Cell and Gene Therapies (Deloitte)

Deloitte's Greg Reh summarizes the panel discussion from the *Financial Times* US Pharma and Biotech Summit about the changes needed to face coming innovations in manufacturing, pricing, and reimbursement of personalized therapies. According to the panelists, these innovations include direct-to-payer models, mass customization, and valuation of gene therapies and one-time treatments.

<https://tinyurl.com/y42rqxhd>

2 ICER Publishes Evidence Report on Treatments for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (ICER)

In its most recent report looking at treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) concludes that the price for the corticosteroid deflazacort would require a 73% to 83% discount off the treatment's wholesale acquisition cost to be cost-effective.

<https://tinyurl.com/yyf5ekmc>

3 Value Our Health: Stop Discriminatory Value Assessments (Morning Consult)

Elizabeth Franklin, executive director of the Cancer Policy Institute at the Cancer Support Community headquarters in Washington DC, makes an argument on the Morning Consult blog that the United States should eliminate "discriminatory measures" such as the quality adjusted life year, or QALY, for assessing the value of therapies for those with chronic conditions and disabilities.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5r52477>

4 Using All-Payer Data to Conduct Cross-State Comparisons of Health Insurance Enrollment (Health Affairs Blog)

A recent study at the Health Affairs blog showed how all-payer claims databases (APCDs) can be used to show how Americans move through the health insurance system. The study, which looked at combined APCDs from neighboring Utah and Colorado, used the combined data sets to estimate transition rates between Medicaid and Marketplace coverage in Colorado and evaluated the effect of Colorado's Medicaid expansion on continuity of Medicaid enrollment with Utah as the comparator.

<https://tinyurl.com/y35r95hn>

5 Novartis Struggling to Win Payer Coverage for \$2.1M Gene Therapy Zolgensma: Analysts (FiercePharma)

Novartis is having difficulties getting payers to cover the \$2.1

million price tag for its spinal muscular atrophy drug Zolgensma. Even though only about one-third of the top 30 US insurance companies have made their decisions about how to cover the drug, analysts at Bernstein are worried.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxq26ul4>

6 The FDA's Janet Woodcock Talks About Some Big Changes She's Pushing for in Drug Development, and Agency Reviews (Endpoints News)

Janet Woodcock, chief of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, recently discussed a host of key changes being made at the agency in clinical trial design, covering aspects such as support of noninferiority and other trial protocols, including dose comparisons and delayed start trials; a coming guidance on trial design around patient-focused clinical design work; and how to evaluate new drug/device combinations.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4hfnf5a>

7 A Probe Into the Wages and Salaries of Health Economics, Outcomes Research, and Market Access Professionals (Applied Health Economics and Health Policy)

In a paper in the journal *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, Manuel J. Carvajal, Patti Peebles, and Ioana Popovici found that men earned higher wages and salaries than women, and within each gender, health economics/outcomes research/market access (HE/OR/MA) professionals living in the United States earned higher wages and salaries than those living outside the United States.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlysk4f>

8 Trump Plans Drug Pricing Executive Order Aimed at Ensuring that the US Pays Less Than Other Nations (STAT)

President Trump says his administration would soon issue an executive order mandating a "favored nations" policy in which US payments for drugs are capped at the lowest price paid by either a manufacturer or a developed country.

<https://tinyurl.com/yxtfahjv>

9 On What We Have Learned and Still Need to Learn About the Psychosocial Impacts of Genetic Testing (The Hastings Center Report)

(The Hastings Center Report)

The Hastings Report has published a collection of essays from a conference to answer questions about the ethical, legal, and social concerns regarding the negative psychosocial impacts of genetic testing and to consider whether future research might benefit from different methods than have been used to date.

<https://tinyurl.com/y5cdwjog>